



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:54 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by John Casey.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2008-0126 Proclamation Recognizing Kids' Day America/International

Read

Mayor Watson read a proclamation recognizing Kids' Day America/International.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Robert Palm, 65 Prospect Hill Road, Noank, is heartened to see the resolution on tonight's agenda that will establish a Task Force for the reuse of the Noank School. He remarked that this is a Town-wide issue, and he would like to be a part of the resolution team.

John Casey, 378 Meridian Street Extension #23, distributed a letter from the Secretary of the State, Susan Bysiewicz, outlining a plan to recognize veterans of World War II for their exemplary service and unwavering courage. After months of work and the cooperation of the Town Clerk's office, the Registrar of Voters, the Tax Assessors office and use of the land records, Mr. Casey is very near completion and only needs the branch of service for a very small number of these individuals. The Secretary of the State's office will then contact the Town to discuss logistics for honoring these veterans, possibly at Fitch Senior High School. The ceremony in Groton will be one of the largest of its kind performed in Connecticut.

Peter Crawford, 5 Harbor Court, Noank, declared that there was confusion about the Noank Task Force Resolution regarding the representative from the RTM. It was his understanding that it would be a Noank RTM representative, and he would like that stated more clearly in the resolution. He is also concerned about the number of residents versus non-residents that will be on this Task Force.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Watson stated that the results of the Noank School Task Force will effect the whole Town. He doesn't anticipate this being a confrontational committee, and the desired outcome should be what is best for the community, the neighborhood and the Town.

Councilor Sheets stated that the RTM may have its own way of deciding who is chosen as a representative for a committee, and that it was not her understanding that it had to be a resident

of Noank.

The Town Manager believes that the practice has been for the RTM Moderator to announce the need and request a volunteer, and historically the Mayor has appointed the individual that the RTM has suggested.

Councilor Streeter publicly thanked Mr. Casey for his personal commitment and dedication to the World War II Veterans' Project, realizing that this task must have taken a tremendous amount of time.

Councilor Kolnaski also expressed her gratitude to Mr. Casey, stating that there are many veterans in our community.

Councilor Monteiro can attest to the fact that Mr. Casey spent many hours working on the veteran's project, as her work requires her to be at the Town Clerk's office frequently. She also extended her thanks for this effort.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2008-0147 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 6, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2008-0116 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Mary C. Hardesty - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Robert and Kristen Fairbanks - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Custom Marine Canvas - \$1,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bruce Avery - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine E. Zod - \$5.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Anderson-Paffard Foundation - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mystic Irish Parade Foundation, Inc. - \$1,250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Michael Mondello of Edward Jones - \$1,167.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James E. Bates of Edward Jones - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Robert C. Henderson of Edward Jones - \$833.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Foxwoods Resort Casino - \$2,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Chelsea Groton Savings Bank - \$1,500.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Henry V. Coatsworth - \$2,000.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Melissa Robinson - \$3.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various Donations - \$686.92 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Paul Georgetti - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Jeffrey and Michelle Cady - \$125.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Jeffrey and Melissa Messina - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Roger and Sidney Gross - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
John and Jana Sidlinger - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Charles Rousseau - \$300.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Daniel Hubert - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

Jeffrey and Mary Labasi - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Victoria and Steven Woods - \$250.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Scott and Betty Woods - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Paul and Clare Rogers - \$200.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Peter and Barbara Rogan - \$50.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
John and Susan Sedensky - \$125.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Maura and Michael Niles - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Elizabeth Fleming - \$1,408.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous
Victor Dufault - \$100.00 - Tercentennial Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0222 Elderly Tax Freeze Legislation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0223 Town Council E-Mail Accounts

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0081 Town Council E-Mail Communications/FOI Considerations

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0174 Mixed Use Zone Amendment Proposal

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0113 Pfizer Grant for Access to Health Care

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0117 Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant for the Arts Cafe-Mystic Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0123 Reuse of Noank School

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0128 Reappointment of Stephen Jones to Shellfish Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0129 Reappointment of John Parfitt Jr. to Board of Assessment Appeals

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0130 Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0131 Reappointment of Edward Deming to Harbor Management Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0132 Reappointment of Thomas Skrmetti to Harbor Management Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0133 Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0134 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0135 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2008-0136 Reappointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2008-0137 **Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0138 **Reappointment of Scott Russotto to Zoning Board of Appeals**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0139 **Reappointment of Edward Kolnaski to Parks and Recreation Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0140 **Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0141 **Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0142 **Reappointment of David Russell to Permanent School Building Committee**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0143 **Reappointment of Robert Austin-LeFrance to Permanent School Building Committee**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0144 **Reappointment of John Wilson to Shellfish Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0145 **Reappointment of Judy Leonard to Library Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0146 **Appointment of Robert Ashworth to Inland Wetlands Agency**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2008-0148 **Resolution in Support of Extension of Conveyance Tax**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Brown-Tracy, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Bond received many emails regarding the budget as well as communications on the Town garden. She also attended an RTM meeting.

Councilor Streeter received emails similar to those cited above; he also received an email regarding the high cost of fuel, specifically referencing a newspaper article that stated that the Board of Education still owes \$240,000 for heating costs. The individual wanted to know if the Board of Education gets an advance price on oil in conjunction with the Town.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger replied that the Board of Education previously belonged to the consortium with the Town a number of years ago, but is unsure of its current practices.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Permanent School Building Committee meeting and she, along with the Mayor, was also present at a press conference at the Tercentennial Park where \$30,000 was presented to John Silsby by a Ledge Light Health District representative. Councilor Kolnaski announced that the Board of Education/Council/RTM Liaison Committee meeting will be held on May 21.

Councilor O'Beirne stated that he received the same emails previously mentioned. In addition, he received an email requesting that the Town set up grandstands or a trailer at the Memorial Day Parade and invite veterans from the SubBase, Afghanistan, and Iraq. However, this cannot be accomplished as the Town is not the sponsor for the Memorial Day Parade. The Town does sponsor the parade on the 4th of July, and a special grandstand area will be set up and an invitation to these veterans will be extended for that event.

2008-0156

Honoring the Service of Groton Residents in Afghanistan and Iraq**HONORING THE SERVICE OF GROTON RESIDENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ**

Councilor Sheets requested that research be conducted to obtain a list of Groton residents who are currently or have previously served in Afghanistan or Iraq, making notations of those who have fallen or been wounded. As a community, Groton should be aware of their involvement.

Mayor Watson referred this item to the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Sheets stated that she is encouraged after receiving two calls from individuals expressing interest in participating on the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community. She also received a communication from Richard Cady regarding a bright orange storage container which is an eye sore because it is currently sitting next to his property. Councilor Sheets attended a presentation by the consultants to revise Town Land Use Regulations and implement the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development. She also attended a stakeholder presentation with individuals concerned about water supply protection, the estuaries, and the environment in general. Councilor Sheets noted that the Groton Open Space Association acquired over eighty acres at the top of Fort Hill. This land extends to Fishtown Road and will be named "The Merritt Family Farm". Finally, she has received two complaints about the brightness at night near the Town dock.

Councilor Schmidt received emails regarding the budget, and she attended a meeting of the Thames Street Rehabilitation Committee.

Councilor Monteiro received emails on the budget and attended some of the RTM budget sessions. She, along with Mayor Watson, was present at the informational meeting that the Town held concerning the use of the Noank School for a temporary Senior Center.

Councilor Brown-Tracy was present at the ribbon-cutting for Starbuck's and an RTM budget meeting. She also attended a presentation entitled "Race" at the Mashantucket Pequot Research Center and encourages those that have the opportunity to view this presentation.

Mayor Watson received emails similar to those noted above. He had two calls regarding the lighting in the Town dock area and has passed this information on to the Town Manager. Mayor Watson attended the change of command ceremony at the Coast Guard Research and Development Center at Avery Point. The Mayor read aloud at the Groton Public Library and attended a mentor dinner at Fitch High School, the Kids Day America Celebration, the ribbon-cutting at Starbuck's, and a SCWA meeting.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM concluded its budget deliberations on Monday night and will not need the final session scheduled for Wednesday.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The RTM has concluded its budget review, ultimately cutting \$2.6 million out of the budget with an overall increase of approximately 3%. With the cuts and adjustments to revenue, the proposed mill rate will be ready for the Council's review next Thursday. He also received an email from

Mayor Popp regarding stop signs at Brandegee Avenue. There has been a desire to have a joint meeting with the Board of Education to discuss issues and concerns with respect to the Phase I project, and this is scheduled for May 28 at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building. Finally, the Board of Education has hired a consultant to look at the superintendent position and there have been a series of public meetings over the last couple of days. Mr. Oefinger stressed the importance of filling out a questionnaire so that the consultant can get an understanding of what qualifications the next superintendent should have. These forms are due by May 20.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Brown-Tracy

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

The minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting will be read at the next Town Council meeting.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

Councilor Sheets read the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

Councilor Streeter read the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

Councilor Streeter read the minutes of the meeting held on May 13, 2008, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There were many appointments and reappointments which are on tonight's agenda. Also on the agenda are discussions regarding the use of the Noank School as a temporary Senior Center, and a resolution in support of extending the conveyance tax.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Sheets announced that the State's Global Warming Statute has been signed by the Governor and has now become law.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2008-0113 Pfizer Grant for Access to Health Care

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO PFIZER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, grants from Pfizer Community Programs provide funds for community vibrancy programs that revitalize communities and support local civic and cultural organizations, and

WHEREAS, funds from such a grant would allow the Town of Groton Senior Center, along with other towns and with the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut and volunteer organizations, to participate in a collaborative program of fall prevention, including individual risk assessments and home safety visits, and

WHEREAS, such a program would complement the concurrent State of Connecticut Senior Center Initiative's fall prevention grant and the Groton Senior Center's "Stretch, Strength and Balance" fitness class, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign a multi-town collaborative grant application for \$25,317.75 from Pfizer Community Programs.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0117

Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant for the Arts Cafe-Mystic Program

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A BODENWEIN GRANT FOR THE ARTS CAFÉ-MYSTIC

WHEREAS, the Arts Café-Mystic for fourteen years has been a popular program that provides live performances by writers and musicians, supports the local writing community, and gives scholarships to student writers at local high schools, and

WHEREAS, the Arts Café-Mystic has received grants from the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation for many years, allowing the Town of Groton's Department of Parks and Recreation to administer the Arts Café performances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for and accept a Bodenwein Foundation grant of \$8,500 for the grant period covering fall, 2008, and spring, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0123

Reuse of Noank School

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING NOANK SCHOOL REUSE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education decided that the Noank School Facility was no longer needed for school purposes and the building was turned over to the Town in February 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a number of inquiries concerning the reuse of this building, and

WHEREAS, Noank School is located within the Noank Fire District and a residential area, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Town Council to make sure that the ultimate reuse of this building is in keeping with the surrounding neighborhood, community needs, and in the best interest of the entire community, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council wishes the Mayor to appoint a Noank School Reuse Task Force including:

1. A representative from the Town Council.
2. A representative from the Noank Fire District.
3. A representative from the RTM.
4. A representative from the Noank Zoning Commission.
5. A representative from the Groton Planning Commission

6. A representative from the Groton Parks and Recreation Commission.
7. Three representatives from the surrounding neighborhood.
8. Two representatives from the community at large.

and be it further,

RESOLVED, that a Technical Advisory Board be established to assist with the necessary technical advice and assistance consisting of staff and others as necessary, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tasks of the Reuse Task Force are:

1. To determine the statutory and other limitations that are placed on the Noank School property.
2. Inventory community needs that could be accommodated at Noank School.
3. Make a recommendation as to whether or not the property should be permanently disposed of as surplus and/or whether or not the building should be reused to meet other public needs or if the space should be leased to an outside concern.
4. If the property is to be disposed of, to recommend a plan to solicit reuse proposals for Town Council review and action.
5. The committee shall report back within one year.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Brown-Tracy, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Due to numerous phone calls, the Town Manager suggested that Councilors consider adding a 5th item under the last RESOLVED section with wording that would stipulate when the committee would report back to the Council with its recommendations.

MOTION TO AMEND to add an Item 5 to the last RESOLVED to state that the committee shall report back within one year was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski.

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

Mayor Watson attended the public information session where they discussed the temporary use of the Noank School and what will happen should the Noank Zoning Commission give its approval. Noank residents living in this neighborhood voiced their concerns, most of which were related to the long-term use of the facility. He further stated that the temporary housing of the Senior Center and the long-term use of the Noank School are two separate issues.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger remarked that it is Town staff's recommendation that the best place to temporarily relocate the Senior Center is the Noank School and that he is hoping to submit an application to the Zoning Commission next Tuesday. He further stated that the soonest the Commission will be able to review the application is June 17. At that point the Zoning Commission will decide whether it wants a public hearing or if there are other issues to be considered.

The motion carried unanimously

Legislative Items 2008-0128 thru 2008-0146

A Motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to adopt Legislative Items 2008-0128 thru 2008-0146. This motion passed unanimously.

2008-0128 Reappointment of Stephen Jones to Shellfish Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEPHEN P. JONES TO THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Stephen P. Jones, 11 Chesbro Avenue, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2012.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be

Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0129 Reappointment of John Parfitt Jr. to Board of Assessment Appeals

REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN W. PARFITT, JR. TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that John W. Parfitt, Jr., 32 St. Paul Court, is hereby reappointed to the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/09.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0130 Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission

REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURA BRADLEY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Laura M. Bradley, 38 Round Hill Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0131 Reappointment of Edward Deming to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD DEMING TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Edward Deming, 347 Old Evarts Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for the term ending 9/1/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0132 Reappointment of Thomas Skrmetti to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING THOMAS SKRMETTI AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Skrmetti, 71 Lapstrake Court, Mystic is reappointed as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission, for a term ending 09/01/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0133 Reappointment of Barbara Block to Inland Wetlands Agency

REAPPOINTMENT OF BARBARA BLOCK TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Barbara Block, 142 Bay View Avenue, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/08.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0134 Reappointment of Barbara Williams to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA WILLIAMS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Barbara Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Inland

Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/09.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0135 Reappointment of Eunice Sutphen to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EUNICE SUTPHEN TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Eunice Sutphen, 120 Cedar Road, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/09.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0136 Reappointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING RICHARD FITZGERALD AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Richard Fitzgerald, 8 Benjamin Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0137 Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID G. WILLIAMS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that David G. Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0138 Reappointment of Scott Russotto to Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SCOTT RUSSOTTO TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Scott Russotto, 25 New London Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term expiring 12/31/2012.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0139 Reappointment of Edward Kolnaski to Parks and Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD KOLNASKI TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Edward F. Kolnaski, 341 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic is hereby appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0140 Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARIE SHAW TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Marie C. Shaw, 20 Colony Road, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term expiring 12/31/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0141 Reappointment of Mary Ellen Furlong to Inland Wetlands Agency**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY ELLEN FURLONG AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY**

RESOLVED, that Mary Ellen Furlong, 57 Fishtown Lane, Mystic, is reappointed as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands Agency with a term ending 12/31/09.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0142 Reappointment of David Russell to Permanent School Building Committee**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID E. RUSSELL TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED, that David E. Russell, 73 Ronald Road, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0143 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to Permanent School Building Committee**REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. AUSTIN-LAFRANCE TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED, that Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, 207 Plant Street, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term expiring 9/29/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0144 Reappointment of John Wilson to Shellfish Commission**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOHN M. WILSON AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION**

RESOLVED, that John M. Wilson, 1 Appletree Lane, West Mystic is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring 12/31/12.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0145 Reappointment of Judy Leonard to Library Board**RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JUDY LEONARD TO THE LIBRARY BOARD**

RESOLVED, that Judy Leonard, 14 Sequin Drive, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term ending 12/31/10.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0146

Appointment of Robert Ashworth to Inland Wetlands Agency

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT ASHWORTH AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY

RESOLVED, that Robert L. Ashworth, 39 Whitney Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed as a regular member, from an alternate member, to the Inland Wetlands Agency for a term expiring 12/31/08.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0148

Resolution in Support of Extension of Conveyance Tax

RESOLUTION FOR ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE REAL ESTATE CONVEYANCE TAX

WHEREAS, the state's authorization for municipalities to add fourteen hundredths of one percent (0.14%) to the Real Estate Conveyance Tax as additional local revenue is set to expire by its own terms on July 1, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to augment, from other sources, the local property tax as the primary source of funding for education, and

WHEREAS, the conveyance tax supplement is especially important to Groton in this year when the state budget will revert to the Educational Cost Sharing level that was provided in the original Biennial Budget for Fiscal year 2009, and

WHEREAS, the augmented Conveyance Tax has proven to be a crucially important source of revenue for Groton and all towns, without taking funds from the State budget or adding to the general property tax burden that prevails in most municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has found that there is a lack of convincing evidence that the supplemental tax has had any materially adverse impact on real estate transactions since its adoption four years ago, and

WHEREAS, the extension of the supplemental Conveyance Tax did not come to a vote in the regular session of the 2008 General Assembly, and the Assembly consequently will be reconvened in Special Session to decide on whether to continue the tax or let it expire, and

WHEREAS, the state legislature is likely to pay attention to concerted action by elected officials from this region, and Mayor Watson has the standing to advocate for a regionally-based statement or petition by towns in the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECOG), to demand the extension of the supplemental Conveyance Tax, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council authorizes its Mayor, Harry A. Watson, to approach the legislature during its upcoming Special Session, as well as to lead a delegation of other elected officials of the town, to press the case for a permanent extension of the subject tax, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayor Watson is likewise authorized to prepare and/or promote a complementary statement or petition by the SECOG on behalf of the towns of our region.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2008-0124

Potential Amendments to the Non-Union Retirement Program

This item will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS**2008-0157****Reappointment to the Zoning Commission****REAPPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING COMMISSION**

Councilor Bond remarked that in looking at the minutes, questionnaires, and recommendations for appointments to boards and commissions, she finds it disheartening to find that someone that has served almost twelve years and was strongly recommended was not even interviewed for reappointment. She further stated that, if possible, recommendations for appointments and reappointments should come to the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Kolnaski was present at the meeting in question, and would also like to have appointments and reappointments referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor O'Beirne stated that the committee consisted of himself, Councilor Sheets, and Councilor Kolnaski and that they considered the recommendation of the individual mentioned. However, two out of the three committee members preferred not to reappoint. The Town does not automatically remove or reappoint every person on a committee, because membership on a board or commission is not a lifetime licence to be a part of that board or commission.

Mayor Watson stated that the item in question is the reappointment of Bob O'Neill to the Zoning Commission. This is a matter of public record.

Councilor Kolnaski suggested discussion on this matter be done in Executive Session.

Mayor Watson made a referral to the Committee of the Whole regarding reappointment of Bob O'Neill to the Zoning Commission.

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to make a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to file the necessary applications for the temporary reuse of Noank School as a Senior Center was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Motion of Authorization

A Motion was made to authorize the Town Manager to fill out the necessary applications for the reuse of the Noank School as a temporary facility for the Senior Center by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, and so voted unanimously.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Bond and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant